

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 /085 W

----- 117199

R 101416Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9303

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, TS, FR

SUBJ: FRANCO-TUNISIAN RELATIONS

REF: TUNIS 3302

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JUNE 5, MINISTER OF PLAN ZAAOUNI EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION OVER GOF ATTITUDE TOWARD TUNISIA. HE SAID THAT FRANCE INSISTING THAT GOT COMPENSATE FRENCH LANDOWNERS FOR LAND WHICH THEY HAD OCCUPIED ILLEGALLY UNDER FRENCH PROTECTORATE ON PRETENSE THAT THERE WAS NO CLEAR TITLE TO LAND AND THAT IT WAS NOT BEING UTILIZED. SINCE FRENCH FIRMS MADE NO PAYMENTS FOR LAND TO ORIGINAL TUNISIAN OWNERS, GOT HAS NO INTENTION OF COMPENSATION THEM BECAUSE OF 1964 NATIONALIZATION, ACCORDING TO ZAAOUNI.

2. COMMENT: ZAAOUNI STATEMENT CLEARLY AT VARIANCE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING REPORTED REFTEL THAT GOF ENTERING CURRENT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WITH TUNISIANS ON ASSURANCE THAT GOT WOULD BE WILLING DISCUSS COMPENSATION. IF INDEED GOT POSITION AS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO COMPENSATION ISSUE AS INDICATED BY ZAAOUNI, WE WONDER
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WHETHER GOF WILL PROCEED WITH VISIT BY PRESIDENT

GISCARD-D'ESTAING WHICH NOW GENERALLY EXPECTED TAKE
PLACE THIS FALL. ON OTHER HAND, IF GOF WERE TO CANCEL
OR DELAY VISIT BECAUSE OF COMPENSATION ISSUE, IT WOULD
CLEARLY DAMAGE PRESENT EXCELLENT FRANCO-TUNISIAN RELA-
TIONS.
SEELYE

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NNN

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